

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Spring 2015 No. 25

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM:

"Life With the Hives -- Not Always the Bees' Knees!"

Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 7:30 PM

Kingston Firehouse, 6 Heathcote Road, Kingston

Learn about the fascinating world of bees and beekeeping from Dennis Rittenhouse, the Small Bee Steward, at our annual meeting. The meeting is open to all, and refreshments will be served. Ample free parking is available behind the firehouse.



Photo by Lee Muenzen

Dennis Rittenhouse began his joyous, non-profit career in 1975, when his two young children were learning about vegetable gardening and pollination. About eight years ago, beekeeping became a passion for him. He practices chemical-free honey bee husbandry. His affiliations include the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, the Central Jersey Beekeepers Association, and the Eastern Apiculture Society.

For more about the Small Bee Steward, visit:

<http://www.thesmallbesteward.com/>

VOLUNTEERS SOLICITED FOR TRAILS DAY:

Saturday, June 6, 2015

We will celebrate Trails Day on Saturday June 6 by opening up a trail in the Cook Natural Area. This will be an alternate trail, on a drier path, to replace the trail that was formerly the site of the boardwalk. Some sections of the boardwalk will be reused. All who would like to volunteer to help are very welcome. We also hope to clear sections of other trails in the vicinity. Meet us at 2:00 pm at the Cook Area parking lot, Ridge and Heathcote. Wear boots; we will supply gloves and tools.

FAREWELL

We are sad to share the news of the death of Dave Reed, owner of Mapleton Nurseries, and steadfast friend to KGA. Ever generous with his time, knowledge and energy, Dave made invaluable contributions to the Mapleton Preserve and the Flemer Arboretum, in particular, and also acted as a thoughtful consultant on repairs to the boardwalk in the Cook Natural Area.

RECENT EVENTS

EARTH DAY CLEANUP

April 18, 2015

Nine people reported for the morning session, and an impressive 28 bags of trash were collected along Laurel Avenue and around Rockingham. We are grateful to John Butcher for coordinating that effort. Ten volunteers worked the afternoon session in the Mapleton Preserve and nearby roadsides, which yielded only about 10 bags—for once, there wasn't that much trash! Perhaps we were seeing the residual effects of the major cleanup we did in partnership with Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands along Mapleton Road on Martin Luther King Day, shown below!



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 14, 2014

Snow Goose	300	Hairy Woodpecker	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3
Canada Goose	282	Northern Flicker	12	Eastern Bluebird	17
Great Blue Heron	1	Pileated Woodpecker	1	American Robin	128
Black Vulture	4	Eastern Phoebe	1	Northern Mockingbird	4
Turkey Vulture	19	Blue Jay	3	European Starling	45
Cooper's Hawk	3	American Crow	129	Yellow-rumped Warbler	30
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Fish Crow	3	American Tree Sparrow	3
Ring-billed Gull	43	Carolina Chickadee	13	Field Sparrow	2
Herring Gull	35	Black-capped Chickadee	13	Song Sparrow	4
Mourning Dove	7	Chickadee SP	43	White-throated Sparrow	81
Belted Kingfisher	1	Tufted Titmouse	27	Dark-eyed Junco	236
Red-bellied Woodpecker	15	White-breasted Nuthatch	17	Northern Cardinal	20
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Brown Creeper	3	House Finch	7
Downy Woodpecker	18	Carolina Wren	12	American Goldfinch	23
		Total species	41	Total birds	1616

In the Kingston segment of the December 10, 2014 Audubon Christmas Bird Count, a total of 41 species was found, including a new entry for the Kingston segment of the count - a pileated woodpecker observed by Anne Zeman and Mark Peel in the Cook Preserve. For once, snow geese beat out Canada Geese as the most frequent bird in the count, thanks to several big flocks that were migrating through the area. We did not see our local eagles on the count day, but they are nesting in Kingston again this year. Total birds logged by the 4 counters was 1616. Many thanks to Karen Linder, Anne Zeman, Mark Peel, and Louise Wilkins, our counters for 2014. If you would like to join us for the 2015 count, please contact Karen Linder at 609-683-0483.



**Male pileated woodpecker
(photo from Wikipedia)**

PRESERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP FUNDS APPORTIONMENT

Last November, voters approved a constitutional amendment dedicating a small percentage of existing state revenues (without increasing taxes) to establish a long-term, stable source of funding for the replenishment of the now-depleted Green Acres, Blue Acres, farmland and historic preservation programs. The measure also provides for continued funding to improve water quality, remove and clean up underground storage tanks, and clean up polluted sites.

Unfortunately, legislators, the administration, and environmental groups have very different ideas as to how the funds should be allocated. The stakes are high, as the money available is far less—

